

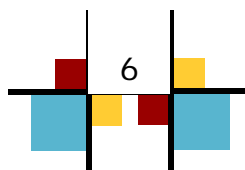


SPECIAL EMPHASIS AREAS

Child Abuse In Indian Country: The District of Arizona has long been dedicated to the prosecution of individuals who sexually assault children. For years these cases were prosecuted by attorneys in our violent crime section. In studying the types of issue raised in both the investigation and litigation of matters involving sexual predators and child victims, we came to realize that the district would be best served by bringing in prosecutors who specialize in these cases. The Phoenix office now has two experienced prosecutors who work exclusively on matters involving allegations of sexual assault. Both Dyanne Greer and John Johnson prosecuted in the Sex Crimes Unit of the Maricopa County Attorney's Office prior to joining the U.S. Attorney's Office. Ms. Greer has prosecuted child sex offenses for several years. She is a respected expert in the field of investigation of sexual offenses, and has lectured throughout the country on the subject. In addition to their prosecution duties, these assistants will also be actively involved in MDT coordination and agent training. While both Greer and Johnson are responsible for their own MDT groups they will also be visiting each of the MDT groups throughout the district to address participation, communication and specific cases. Similarly, in Tucson, AUSA Lauren Anaya has been tasked with prosecuting sexual predators and handling cases involving child victims. Previously, Ms. Anaya handled general federal prosecutions including violent crimes and border related crimes for the Tucson USAO, and previously with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Mexico. Ms. Anaya is responsible for the Pascua Yaqui and Tohono O'odham MDT groups.

Each of these child crimes prosecutors are involved in training on topics related to the detection, investigation and prosecution of child crimes. Agent training sessions are being planned for the near future. These sessions will focus on the investigation of sexual assault cases so that the agents will understand the kind of information our prosecutors will need to successfully prosecute a sexual perpetrator. We are confident that the addition of these experienced prosecutors will help our office to better serve the concerns of sexual assault victims and the interests of justice.

Aggressive Response to Violent Crime Referrals: To ensure timely resolution to reports of Indian Country crimes, the violent crime group, Group I, has implemented the following procedure for non-reactive crimes (where a defendant does not pose a flight risk or a danger to the community): Within 30 days of receiving an investigative report, the assigned AUSA must either 1) charge the defendant; 2) decline the case in writing; or 3) make a written request to the investigating agency for further investigation or information to enable the AUSA to make a charging decision. Thereafter, the investigating agency has 45 days to provide the requested information. Upon receiving the information, the AUSA will promptly decide whether to charge or decline the case. If no information is provided, the matter will be declined. This system has resulted in expediting the time in which charging and declination decisions are made, directly benefiting the victims, law enforcement agencies and the affected communities. Reactive cases are still handled through the criminal complaint process.





SPECIAL EMPHASIS AREAS

Alcohol “Bootlegging” Prosecutions: The prevalence of alcohol and substance abuse in violent crime cases occurring in Indian Country remains high. The United States Attorney’s Office has met with interested tribal law enforcement agencies to address the illegal sale of alcohol on Indian reservations where alcohol is prohibited and where a demonstrable need exists. For example, “Operation Bootleg”, was a four month undercover operation resulting in the arrest of 22 individuals on federal crimes for unlawful dispensing of intoxicating liquor and marijuana possession. “Operation Bootleg” was a carefully combined effort of the Federal Bureau of Investigations and the Navajo Department of Law Enforcement. The success of the operation was a direct result of the federal and tribal agency cooperatively sharing resources and manpower to investigate these crimes. Many area law enforcement reported that after the arrests occurred, there was a noticeable decrease in criminal activity.

Although many of those arrested received sentences of supervised release with the condition that they not possess or use alcohol, any subsequent offense is punishable by a term of imprisonment of 12 months in federal custody for violating supervised release conditions. For example, after several months on supervised release, one defendant, Herbert Begay, was arrested by the Navajo Department of Law Enforcement for selling alcohol from his home to juveniles. Mr. Begay was ordered to serve 12 months in federal custody for violating his supervised release conditions.

On the Arizona Border: In August, 2002, the *Arizona Border First Responders*, a self-appointed group of county, tribal, federal and state law enforcement agencies in southern Arizona, was established to address the increase in deaths and crimes in the southern Arizona desert and the costs associated with responding to and investigating these problems. With the aid of the U.S. Attorney’s Office LECC Coordinator, members of the *Arizona Border First Responders*, including Tohono O’odham Police Captain Richard Saunders, Yuma County Sheriff Ralph Ogden, Cochise County Sheriff Larry Dever and Pima County Deputy Sheriff Richard Carmona, traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with the U.S. Department of Justice Officials and the Office of Justice Programs staff to discuss the impact of these desert deaths and crimes and their impact on the communities and law enforcement agency resources. The group continues to meet on a regular basis to coordinate responses and share information on the impact of border crimes.

